

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 30 are pending.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by Riddle et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,457,051.

Claims 2 - 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable in view of the following combination of references:

- claim 2: Riddle et al. and Del Monte, U.S. Patent No. 5,704,060;
- claims 3, 4, 6 - 8, and 27: Riddle et al. and Tang, U.S. Patent No. 5,378,126;
- claims 5, 9, 10, 18, 22, 23, 28, and 29: Riddle et al., Tang, and Del Monte;
- claims 15 and 30: Riddle et al., Tang, and Boucher et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,226,680;
- claims 16 and 17: Riddle et al., Tang, Del Monte, and Moreno, U.S. Patent No. 5,951,674;
- claims 19, 20, 24 - 26: Riddle et al., Tang, Del Monte, and Boucher; and
- claim 21: Riddle et al., Tang, Del Monte, Boucher, and Moreno.

Claims 11 - 14 were deemed to not add any new limitations above claims 1 - 13 and therefore were rejected for similar reasons.

The foregoing rejections were made final.

Counsel for Applicant is gracious for the Examiner's time and attention during a telephonic discussion on June 30, 2004. Independent claims 1, 6, 11, 18, and 27 have been amended per the discussion. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the claim amendments. The primary reference to Riddle et al. is believed to be distinguished, and the pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

A review of the file wrapper shows that one reference out of three references submitted in an IDS filed at the time of the application had not been considered; apparently a copy of the reference was not available to the Examiner. The missing reference is submitted herewith in a supplemental IDS. Consideration of the reference is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 09/557,736
Amdt. sent August 23, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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